

THE WESLEYAN.

"HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS."

Scripture.

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POETRY.

THE SUNBEAM.

By Mrs. HEMANS.

Thou art no lingerer in monarch's hall,
A joy thou art, and a wealth to all!
A bearer of hope unto land and sea—
Sunbeam! what gift hath the world like thee?

Thou art walking the billows, and ocean smiles—
Thou hast touched with glory his thousand isles.
Thou hast lit up the ships, and the feathery foam,
And gladden'd the sailor, like words of home.

To the solemn depths of the forest shades,
Thou art streaming on through their green arcades;
And the quivering leaves that have caught thy glow
Like fire-flies glance to the pools below.

I look'd on the mountains—a vapour lay
Folding their heights in its dark array;
Thou breakest forth—and the mist became
A crown and a mantle of living flame.

I look'd on the peasant's lowly cot—
Something of sadness had wrapt the spot,—
But a gleam of *thee* on its lattice fell,
And it laugh'd into beauty at that bright spell.

To the earth's wild places a guest thou art,
Flushing the waste like the rose's heart;
And thou scornest not from thy pomp to shed
A tender smile on the ruin's head.

And thou turnest not from the humble grave,
Where a flower to the sighing winds may wave,
Thou scatterest its gloom like the dreams of rest,
Thou sleepest in love on its grassy breast.

Thou tak'st through the dim church-aisle thy way
And its pillars from twilight flash forth to day,
And its high pale tombs, with their trophies old,
Are bath'd in a flood, as of molten gold.

Sunbeam of summer! oh! what is like thee?
Hope of the wilderness, joy of the sea—
One thing is like thee to mortals given,—
The *faith* touching all things with hues of heaven.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

LYDIA STURTEVANT; OR,

THE FATAL RESOLUTION

By Rev. ELIAKIM PHELPS.

LYDIA STURTEVANT was the name of an amiable young lady of my acquaintance, who died at the age of sixteen. She was the daughter of respectable and pious parents in one of the New England states. On the cultivation of her mind considerable attention had been bestowed. Buoyant in spirit, and beautiful in person, she was the pride of her parents, the ornament of her circle, and the admiration of all who knew her.

To what extent her mind had been imbued with religious truth in childhood, I have not been able fully

to learn. It is certain that from her earliest years she had regarded religion with respect, and had entertained the expectation of becoming a Christian before she died. It is not known, however, that she was the subject of special religious impressions until the summer of 1824. During the months of July and August of that year her mind was solemnly impressed, and she felt that it was unsafe to continue in the neglect of religion any longer. One morning, especially, the first impressions as she awoke was, that she must embrace religion *then*; and that her soul was in imminent danger of being lost if she delayed. She saw herself, as she expressed it, "to be a great sinner, in the hands of a God of justice"—saw that there was no hope but in Jesus Christ—that in Christ there was a full and complete salvation—that he was ready and willing to receive her *then*, and that delay would probably be fatal to her soul." She deliberated; she reasoned; she prayed, and finally made up her mind to the deliberate RESOLUTION that she would repent and accept the offer of salvation before the close of THAT DAY. She did not actually repent then, but resolved that she would do it *that day*. The resolution was, as she believed, the solemn and deliberate purpose of her soul; and she felt a degree of satisfaction in the thought that the question of her eternal salvation was now so near a final and favourable adjustment. But the day had its cares and its pleasures; business and company filled up its hours, and the night found her as thoughtless, almost, as she had been for months.

The next morning her religious impressions were renewed and deepened. She saw, more clearly than before, the danger of her condition and the necessity of immediate repentance. Sin now appeared more exceedingly sinful; she reproached herself for violating the resolution of the previous morning, and in agony of soul, better conceived than described, formed another resolution, as she expressed it, "to begin religion before the close of that day." And with this the anxiety of her mind again subsided. The solemn vows of the previous morning gave her some tranquillity; she felt not quite the same confidence in herself that she did before; but she had now formed her resolution so firmly, she was so fixed in her purpose, that she considered the issue could hardly be any longer doubtful; and the agony of her soul gave way to the soothing reflection that she should soon be a Christian. She had now taken, as she imagined, "one step"—had formed a solemn purpose, and had given a pledge to repent *that day*. She felt, as she expressed it, *committed*, and hardly had a doubt as to the accomplishment of her purpose. This day also